THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) In excercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4A of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government has notified the 15th day of January, 2003 as the date within six months from which, it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit/re-transmit programmes of every pay channel through an addressable system in the four metro cities namely, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. Thereafter, a set top box will be required to view the pay channels and not for free-to-air channels.

(e) There is no proposal to extend the deadline for implementation of the Conditional Access System in the four metro cities.

FDI for Films Division

3957. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for Films Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government realize the potential of improving the standard of Films Division by opening FDI to convert it into an international film organization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Films Division is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and functions as regular Government organization. Therefore, no FDI in Films Division is envisaged. Films Division already has an international profile in that it conducts the biennial Mumbai International Films Festival (MIFF), widely recognized as among the best documentary/short films festivals in the world. Films Division has also made a number of features which have gained the acceptance of foreign audiences.